

AN ACT

relating to engineering recruitment programs at public or private institutions of higher education and to certain degree programs at public junior colleges.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 61.791(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds appropriated for that purpose, a one-week summer program to take place on the campus of each general academic teaching institution or private or independent institution of higher education that offers an engineering degree program. The summer program must be designed for middle and high school students and to expose those students to math, science, and engineering concepts that a student in an engineering degree program may encounter.

SECTION 2. Sections 61.792(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The board shall establish and administer, using funds appropriated for that purpose, scholarships for students pursuing a degree in engineering at a general academic teaching institution or a private or independent institution of higher education.

(b) To qualify for a scholarship under this section, a student must:

(1) have graduated with a grade point average in the

1 top 20 percent of the student's high school graduating class;

2 (2) have graduated from high school with a grade point  
3 average of at least 3.5 on a four-point scale or the equivalent in  
4 mathematics and science courses offered under the recommended or  
5 advanced high school program under Section 28.025(a); and

6 (3) maintain an overall grade point average of at  
7 least 3.0 on a four-point scale at the general academic teaching  
8 institution or the private or independent institution of higher  
9 education in which the student is enrolled.

10 SECTION 3. Section 130.0012, Education Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsection (k) to read as follows:

12 (k) The board shall conduct a study relating to the success  
13 of baccalaureate degree programs offered under this section and to  
14 the feasibility of expanding the offering of baccalaureate degrees  
15 by public junior colleges. The study must consider the economic  
16 viability of expanding the degree programs, the workforce needs  
17 served by the degree programs for various areas of the state,  
18 current and potential university course offerings, and other  
19 methods for making baccalaureate degrees available, such as  
20 distance education programs and multi-institutional teaching  
21 centers. Not later than November 15, 2010, the board shall report  
22 the results of the study to each standing committee of the  
23 legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education. This  
24 subsection expires January 1, 2011.

25 SECTION 4. (a) Sections 61.791 and 61.792, Education Code,  
26 as amended by this Act, apply beginning with the 2009-2010 academic  
27 year.

1           (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
2 adopt rules for the administration of Sections 61.791 and 61.792,  
3 Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as practicable after  
4 this Act takes effect. For that purpose, the coordinating board may  
5 adopt the rules in the manner provided by law for emergency rules.

6           SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

H.B. No. 2425

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2425 was passed by the House on May 12, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2425 on May 29, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2425 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor